AMENDMENTS

In the Specification:

Please replace the first paragraph, page 5, as follows:

--Preferably, the aliquot of blood is in addition subjected to mechanical stress. Such mechanical stress includes stress that is ~~that~~ applied to the aliquot of blood by extraction of the blood aliquot through a conventional blood extraction needle, or a substantially equivalent mechanical stress, shortly before the other chosen stressors are applied to the blood aliquot. This mechanical stress may be supplemented by a mechanical stress exerted on the blood aliquot by bubbling gases through it, such as ozone/oxygen mixtures, as described below. Optionally, a temperature stressor may be applied to the blood aliquot, simultaneously or sequentially with the other stressors, i.e. a temperature at, above or below body temperature.--

Please replace the paragraph bridging pages 9 and 10 of the application with the following:

In view of the fact that the process of the invention described above leads to a significant decrease in the expression and/or activity of the inflammatory cytokine IL-6, the invention is particularly indicated for prophylaxis or alleviation of chronic fatigue syndrome (CFS) in human patients. Whilst the etiology of CFS remains contentious, there is a general consensus that IL-6 plays a role in CFS, either as a result of abnormal levels of IL-6 in the patient or abnormal sensitivity to IL-6 on the part of the patient. See, for example, Gupta S., ~~et.al.,~~ et al., *J. Psychiatr. Res.*, 31(1): 149-156, 1997; Cannon J. G. ~~et.al.,~~ et al., *J. Clin. Immunol. 19(6) :* 414-421, 1999 ; and Pall M.L., *Med. Hypotheses 54(1)*:115-25 (2000). Although excessive levels of and/or excessive sensitivity to IL-6 are almost certainly not the only factors controlling CFS in a ~~pateient~~ patient, they are at least a significant contributing factor, and the process and composition of the invention whereby IL-6 is downregulated accordingly shows potential in successful alleviation of this disorder.